

# SACRED CREATIONS

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*...because people are sacred creations of God.*

07-16-14

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the Illinois 1115 waiver application, it heavily relies on a medical model approach and the application has excluded choice of persons who utilize public services, especially persons with psychiatric disabilities.

This is evidenced by sources which the application references. For example, the "Illinois Alliance for Health Innovation Plan" states very clearly it is provider-driven.

This is further evidenced by the service definitions (pg 57) which fail to include a service definition for the rapidly growing field of Recovery Support. Persons with mental health conditions desire and deserve the expansion of the Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) credential throughout all health care and human service systems.

This is further evidenced by the education opportunities the 1115 waiver application states it will fund. For example, Illinois intends to fund accredited GME programs (pg 30) without similar infrastructure identified for evidence-based recovery programs which integrate CRSS into existing models.

This is further evidenced by the employment opportunities the 1115 waiver application states it will fund. For example, workforce training programs (page 97) include primary care physicians, dental, nursing and pharmacy are identified. However, "Increasing Mental Health Services in Medically Underserved Areas" identifies only bachelor and graduate level social work as an avenue for focusing on "the specific mental health needs of individuals living in urban areas" without similar infrastructure identified for evidence-based recovery programs which integrate CRSS into existing models.

In addition to persons living with mental health conditions benefiting from Recovery Support Services, Community Hospitals and Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities which are contractually required to hire CRSS staff will also benefit.

I only learned of opportunity to submit federal comment today, the day comments are due, which begs the question – **Whose interests are represented in this process?** The evidence strongly indicates that it is not in any way, shape or form persons who actually utilize these systems. Supporting documents include previously submitted public comments which were not cited in the 1115 waiver application, nor published on the Health Care Reform in Illinois website. I truly wish that my letter was in support of the 1115 waiver application. However, I cannot in good conscience support an application that excludes participation of the very population it proclaims to serve.

Sincerely,



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